AIDS Associated Cardiac Burkitt’s Lymphoma Presenting as Complete Heart Block with Heart Failure

Sana Rashid DO1, Pablo Michel Sanchez MD2, Uzair Ashraf MD2, Mohamad Soud MD2, Shawn Adam MD1, Devin Vasoya BA1, Julius Gardin MD2

1Department of Medicine, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
2Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Background

• Primary cardiac Burkitt’s lymphoma is extremely rare, representing less than 1% of all known non-Hodgkin Lymphomas

• There is a high propensity of association of Burkitt’s lymphoma with HIV/AIDS

Clinical Course

• A 56-year-old man with no prior history presented with one month of unintentional weight loss, worsening dyspnea, orthopnea, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, and lower extremity edema

• Physical exam revealed anasarca, bitemporal wasting, bradycardia (54bpm), estimated right atrial pressure 20cm, diminished right lung base breath sounds, 4+ pitting edema to mid thigh

• Initial work-up revealed a troponin 4.4 ng/mL, BNP 421 pg/mL, lactic acid 4.6 mmol/L, BUN 50 mg/dl, Cr 1.3 mg/dl, and a reactive HIV Ag Ab, CD4 count 92.

• Electrocardiogram revealed a third-degree atrioventricular block

• Transthoracic echocardiogram (figure 1) and subsequent cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (figure 2) revealed an infiltrative cardiomyopathy with a reduced ejection fraction of 35%, grade 3 diastolic dysfunction, and non-obstructive left and right atrial masse, all of which was concerning of lymphoma

Figure 1: Four chamber transthoracic echocardiogram views reveals thick interventricular and intertrial septum, with an echogenic density in the right atrium (2.5X1.8 cm) and large mass in left atrium (7 X 5 cm)

Figure 2: Cardiac MRI detailing a large mass posterior to left atrium with extensive infiltration along the epicardial surfaces and infiltration into the myocardium and involves the intra-atrial septum and both atria

Clinical Course cont.

• Right atrial endomyocardial biopsy (total of 7 samples), as well as ascitic and pleural cytology revealed a high grade B cell lymphoma with Fluorescence in situ Hybridization revealing a t(8:14), most consistent with Burkitt’s lymphoma (Figure 3)

• A leadless atrioventricular pacemaker was placed in the right ventricle

• Patient required furosemide infusion for diuresis and dobutamine infusion to enhance cardiac inotropism

• Patient was also found to have AIDS (CD4 94) and started on antiretroviral therapy and opportunistic infection prophylaxis

• He received one cycle of R-CVP (Rituximab, Cyclophosphamide, Vincristine, Prednisone)

• Further hospital course was complicated by septic shock in setting of neutropenic fever, requiring vasopressor support

• Staging of cancer is ongoing

Conclusion

• To our knowledge, primary cardiac Burkitt’s lymphoma has only been reported in only a handful of cases

• Our case highlights cardiac Burkitt’s lymphoma causing conduction disease and heart failure

Figure 3: Sub endocardial tissue with poorly preserved large atypical B cells, acute inflammation, and necrosis, consistent with involvement by a high-grade B cell lymphoma (Left). Peritoneal fluid with atypical lymphocytes positive for CD20, PAX-5, and Bcl-6, (subset of cells expressing Bcl-2, Ki-67) (Right). Findings supporting diagnosis of Burkitt Lymphoma.